

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00416 211636Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

L-02 /072 W

----- 041224

R 211550Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0578

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 00416

CANBERRA FOR HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS GV

SUBJECT:REPORTED INCREASE IN NUMBER GUINEANS AND OTHERS

FLEEING COUNTRY

REF: CONAKRY 0359 (NOTAL)

1. ONE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF GOVERNMENT'S COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC MEASURES OF RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN REPORTED INCREASE IN ILLEGAL EMIGRATION TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND LIKELY DEPARTURE SOON OF MANY SMALL LEBANESE MERCHANTS, NOW THAT ALL PRIVATE COMIERCE IS OFFICIALLY OUTLAWED (REFTEL).

2. GUINEAN EMIGRATION IS DIFFICULT TO MONITOR FROM CONAKRY, BUT ACCORDING TO CERTAIN AFRICAN DIPLOMATS THERE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HEAVY RECENT FLOW INTO MALL, FROM WHENCE MANY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 00416 211636Z

TRAVELERS CONTINUE TO DAKAR. THERE IS ONE REPORT OF A BORDER

VILLAGE NEAR MALI IN WHICH ENTIRE POPULATION PACKED UP EVERYTHING THEY COULD, BURNED VILLAGE TO GROUND TO PREVENT AUTHORITIES FROM GAINING ANYTHING, AND FLED TO MALI. A SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT IN FEBRUARY GUINEAN TROOPS FOLLOWED A GROUP OF SMUGGLERS OR EMIGRANTS INTO SIERRA LEONE TERRITORY AND THERE WAS AT LEAST SOME GUNFIRE IN A SIERRA LEONE VILLAGE, ALTHOUGH NO SIERRA LEONEANS WERE HIT. EVEN FRONTIER POSTS ON BORDER WITH GUINEA-BISSAU HAVE HAD TO BE REINFORCED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SMALL DETACHMENTS OF CUBAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO EIGHT FRONTIER POINTS, MORE TO HELP IN CONTROLLING SMUGGLING THAN TO INTERCEPT REFUGEES.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL INDEPENDENT REPORTS THAT EXODUS FROM REGIONAL CAPITALS OF KANKAN AND LABE PARTICULARLY HEAVY, SINCE SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND OTHER CONSUMER ITEMS REPORTEDLY EVEN MORE ACUTE THAN IN CONAKRY.

5. WHILE NO GUINEAN HAS SPOKEN TO ANY EMBASSY OFFICERS OF

POSSIBLE INTERNAL OPPOSITION ORGANIZING AGAINST TOURE, SEVERAL HAVE OPENLY STATED THEY ARE PLANNING TO FLEE COUNTRY. SUCH STATEMENTS WERE RARELY HEARD IN PAST. MOST LEBANESE ARE STILL HOLDING ON, ON ASSUMPTION THAT CURRENT PROGRAMS OF OCCASIONAL SEIZURES OF THEIR GOODS BY ZEALOUS POLICE OR ARMY PERSONNEL WILL STOP IN TIME. LEBANESE LOCAL EMPLOYEE, ONE OF LEADERS OF COMMUNITY, REPORTS THAT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR SEEKING COMMITMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM BEIRUT FOR REPATRIATION OF LEBANESE WHO DECIDE TO DEPART.

6. COMMENT: GOG WILL PROBABLY STEP UP EFFORTS GET COOPERATION OF LIBERIAN, SIERRA LEONEAN AND MALIAN GOV'TS TO CONTROL EXODUS. THIS COULD CAUSE NEW PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH (IN CASES OF LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE, AT LEAST) ARE ALREADY UNDERGOING SOME STRAINS. WHILE FREETOWN AND MONROVIA IN BETTER POSITION TO MONITOR THIS THAN WE ARE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME SENIOR OFFICIALS IN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE DISPLEASED WITH THEIR PRESIDENTS' PAST TOLERANCE OF PRESIDENT TOURE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CONAKR 00416 211636Z

7. BUT UNLESS THERE ARE CONSPICUOUS HIGH-LEVEL GUINEAN DEFECTIONS OR

THE PROGRAM OF SENDING STUDENTS TO THE INTERIOR TO HELP FIGHT THE ECONOMIC WAR CAUSES MANY OF THEM TO FLEA (THIS LATTER POSSIBILITY IS WIDELY RUMORED), THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS FIRM CONTROL OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. THE FOOD CRISIS CONTINUES, BUT EMIGRATION, RATHER THAN DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY

ACTION LIKELY OR EVEN POSSIBLY BY LOW-LEVEL GUINEANS IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.
MACDONALD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CONAKR00416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750100-0453
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750329/aaaaazlh.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CONAKRY 0359
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPORTED INCREASE IN NUMBER GUINEANS AND OTHERS FLEEING COUNTRY
TAGS: PINS, GV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006